

Claims:

1. A data recording/reproducing apparatus,
comprising:

recording area setting means of setting a plurality
of logical recording areas in a recording medium which is
for recording and reproducing data; and

file management means which refers to free area
management information, which is for managing a free area
capacity for each one of said recording areas, recording
file management information, which is for managing a file
to be recorded for each one of said recording areas, and
deletion file selecting criteria information, which is for
selecting a file to be deleted for each one of said recording
areas, and executes management of said files,

being characterized in that for writing of new data
in a predetermined recording area, when said file management
means judges that a free area for writing said new data
is insufficient with reference to said free area management
information, said file management means, referring to said
deletion file selecting criteria information, deletes a
portion or all of at least one file which is recorded in
said predetermined recording area or does not execute an
operation for writing said new data.

2. A data recording/reproducing apparatus in accordance with Claim 1, characterized in that when not executing writing of said new data, said file management means notifies to outside that writing of said new data is not executed, and accepts an instruction in response to the notification from outside.

3. A data recording/reproducing apparatus in accordance with Claim 1, characterized in comprising deletion file selecting criteria information setting means which is for a user to set up said deletion file selecting criteria information for each one of said recording areas.

4. A data recording/reproducing apparatus in accordance with Claim 1, characterized in that said files are grouped in accordance with a predetermined criteria, said file management means, when deleting a portion or all of at least one file which is recorded in said predetermined recording area, deletes the file which is to be deleted as well as other files which belong to the same group as the file which is to be deleted.

5. A data recording/reproducing apparatus in accordance with any one of Claim 1 through Claim 4, characterized in that a classification of said data which

are to be written is different for each one of said recording areas, and said data recording/reproducing apparatus comprises data classification information setting means which is for a user to set up, for each one of said recording areas, data classification information which is for setting up a classification of data which are to be written.

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6. (Amended) A medium which is characterized in that it can be handled with a computer and characterized in carrying a program which is for executing, with a computer, functions of a data recording/reproducing apparatus in accordance with any one of Claim 1 through Claim 5.

7. (Amended) A program which is characterized in that it is a program for executing, with a computer, functions of a data recording/reproducing apparatus in accordance with any one of Claim 1 through Claim 5.

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